

Every Man in His Place

Chapter 4

Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson 30



Objective: To learn spiritual secrets of faith and obedience from the life of Gideon.



The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, “The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior.” Then Gideon said to him, “Oh my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.” The Lord looked at him and said, “Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?” ...Each stood in his place around the camp; and all the army ran, crying out as they fled.

—Judges 6:12 -14; 7:21

Many years had passed since the crossing of the Red Sea. The people of God had fallen away and were conquered and oppressed by Midian. God heard Israel’s cries and chose Gideon to deliver them. When an angel of God spoke to Gideon, Gideon wanted to know if God would still grant his people a miracle like He did in the time of Moses. The angel of the Lord called Gideon a mighty man of valor, even though Gideon was hiding and afraid. God demonstrated through Gideon that He delights in taking the least, the weakest, and the most ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary supernatural miracles.

It is important when God calls you to do a work for Him that you go into that work knowing that God has sent you and that God is with you. You must also learn some spiritual secrets that the judges and other great deliverers like Moses had to learn. Those spiritual secrets are:

- It is not a matter of who and what you are; it is a matter of Who and what God is.
- It is not a matter of what you can do; it is a matter of what God can do.
- It is not a matter of what you want; it is what God wants that matters.
- And when the miracles happen, you will then look back and say, “It was not what I did; it was what God did because God sent me, and God was with me.”



1. True or false? Midianites were one of Israel's terrible oppressors and did everything they could to destroy the land.
2. True or false? God's angel saw Gideon as weak and unimportant.
3. True or false? God has a right to test us, but we do not have a right to test Him.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. How did God respond to Gideon's request for miracles like in the days of old?
 - a. He got angry.
 - b. He told Gideon that he was part of a miracle God was about to do.
 - c. He told Gideon that miracles do not happen anymore.
 - d. He felt sorry for Gideon.
5. How are we strengthened by knowing that God has sent us to do His work?
 - a. We know we are going in His strength and with His blessing.
 - b. It shows us how much confidence God has in our abilities.
 - c. It reminds us that God loves us more than He loves other people.
 - d. It puts a lot of pressure on us to succeed.
6. Why does God like to choose people who are weak? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. So they will have to learn how to be strong.
 - b. Because He knows they will have to depend on Him.
 - c. It shows His power and strength.
 - d. He does not. He chooses those who are strong.
7. Which of the following is/are God purpose(s) when He gives someone faith? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. To keep us ignorant of His ways.
 - b. To prevent us from worshipping other gods.
 - c. To test our faith and prove it.
 - d. To prove Himself to us.
8. How did God respond the first time Gideon asked for confirmation by putting out the fleece?
 - a. He answered Gideon's request.
 - b. He told Gideon to have faith without confirmation.
 - c. He got impatient with Gideon.
 - d. He decided to choose someone else.
9. Why did God respond the second time Gideon asked for confirmation with fleece?
 - a. He wanted Gideon to always ask for direction twice.
 - b. He wanted to confirm and affirm Gideon's faith.
 - c. To give Gideon a different answer than the first time.
 - d. He wanted to prove that He always speaks with signs.

10. What is the difference between asking God for confirmation and putting Him to the test?
- There is no difference.
 - The first two times we ask, it is for confirmation. After that, we are putting Him to the test.
 - Asking for confirmation is a sign of unbelief, and putting Him to the test is a sign of rebellion.
 - Asking for confirmation comes from a desire to act in faith, but putting God to the test comes from a demand for God to prove Himself to us.
11. Why did God tell Gideon to destroy his father's idol?
- To prove Gideon's faith and obedience.
 - God wanted Gideon to get killed.
 - God was afraid of the idol.
 - God wanted to see if Gideon was foolish enough to offend his father.
12. Who does God prefer to use?
- A majority of His people. The more the better.
 - A single person because it is hard to get people to work together.
 - A faithful minority.
 - He prefers to do things by Himself.
13. What was required for the success of Gideon's army against the Midianites?
- A huge army
 - One hundred percent participation
 - Alliances with other countries
 - Years of planning
14. To defeat the Midianite army God chose to use?
- 32,000 valiant soldiers
 - 10,000 brave Israelites
 - A divine plan and 300 men
 - Supernatural fire from heaven



If you were in Gideon's army, would you be one of those who went home? Or would you be completely committed to the cause? In what ways do you need to be more committed to God's kingdom?



Thank God for His victories and ask Him to show you how He wants you to serve Him faithfully. Ask Him to help you be like the faithful minority in Gideon's army that "stood, each one in his position."



Going Deeper

1. As you consider the essential meaning of the fleece of Gideon, what is the difference between God proving us and our proving God, putting Him to the test? _____

2. Relate and apply the daring plan that defeated the Midianites and the reduction of Gideon's army from 32,000 to 300, which was less than one percent of his original army. _____

3. Applying this story, are we to target our ministry energies to address the apathetic majority or the committed minority? Why? _____

4. How can the fact that the 300 victors "stood every man in his place" be applied to a church or to a ministry team today? _____

5. Why did God order Gideon to tear down his father's altar to a pagan god? _____

6. How much of the victory over the Midianites was supernatural miracle and how much of it was bold and daring faith on the part of Gideon and his 300 men? _____

7. Why did God call someone from the weakest and the least of the clans to lead the children of Israel into this great victory? _____
